

## **IN THE CLAIMS:**

1. (Currently amended) An isolated nucleic acid molecule comprising a sequence of nucleotides encoding an  $\alpha$  chain of human Interleukin (IL)-11 receptor wherein said nucleic acid molecule comprises the nucleotide sequence as set forth in SEQ ID NO:4 or a nucleotide sequence which hybridizes to the complementary form of SEQ ID NO:4 ~~or its complementary form~~ under high stringency hybridization conditions comprising 65°C for about 16 hours in a solution of 2X SSC, 2 mg/ml bovine serum albumin, 2 mg/ml ficoll, 2 mg/ml polyvinylpyrrolidine, 100  $\mu$ M ATP, 50  $\mu$ g/ml tRNA, 2 mM sodium pyrophosphate, 2 mg/ml salmon sperm DNA, 200  $\mu$ g/ml of sodium azide and 1% w/v SDS followed by washing for 30 mins at 65°C with 0.2 X SSC and 0.1% SDS.

2-4. (Cancelled)

5. (Previously presented) The isolated nucleic acid molecule according to claim 1 wherein the nucleic acid molecule is DNA.

6-7. (Cancelled)

8. (Previously presented) The isolated nucleic acid molecule according to claim 5 wherein the nucleic acid molecule encodes an amino acid sequence comprising SEQ ID NO:5.

9. (Previously presented) The isolated nucleic acid molecule according to claim 8 wherein said nucleic acid molecule comprises a nucleotide sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:4.

10. (Cancelled)

11. (Original) A recombinant vector comprising the nucleic acid molecule according to claim 8 or 9.

12. (Previously presented) An isolated nucleic acid molecule comprising a sequence of nucleotides which encodes a mammalian IL-11 receptor  $\alpha$ -chain, said nucleic acid molecule

further defined by the ability of an oligonucleotide selected from SEQ ID NOS:6 to 10 to hybridize thereto under hybridization conditions comprising 65°C for about 16 hours in a solution of 2X SSC, 2 mg/ml bovine serum albumin, 2 mg/ml ficoll, 2 mg/ml polyvinylpyrrolidine, 100  $\mu$ M ATP, 50  $\mu$ g/ml tRNA, 2 mM sodium pyrophosphate, 2 mg/ml salmon sperm DNA, 200  $\mu$ g/ml of sodium azide and 1% w/v SDS followed by washing for 30 mins at 65°C with 0.2 X SSC and 0.1% SDS.

13-30. (Cancelled)

31. (New) The isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 12, wherein said mammalian IL-11 receptor  $\alpha$ -chain interacts with gp130 protein to mediate an IL-11 induced proliferative or differentiative response.

32. (New) The isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 12, wherein said mammalian IL-11 receptor  $\alpha$ -chain comprises Trp-Ser-Xaa-Trp-Ser (SEQ ID NO:1).

33. (New) The isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 1, wherein said human IL-11 receptor  $\alpha$ -chain interacts with gp130 protein to mediate an IL-11 induced proliferative or differentiative response.

34. (New) The isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 1, wherein said human IL-11 receptor  $\alpha$ -chain comprises Trp-Ser-Xaa-Trp-Ser (SEQ ID NO:1).